



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Hubbell et al. Art Unit: 1713
Serial No.: 09/644,121
Filed: August 23, 2000 Examiner: Henderson Jr., C.
For: NOVEL POLYMER COMPOUNDS
Docket No.: 314572-103C

I, Arthur E. Jackson, Registration No. 34,354, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington DC 20231 on January 7, 2003

Arthur E. Jackson, Registration No. 34,354

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Office Action dated December 11, 2002, this response and these comments are respectfully submitted.

This Paper is believed timely filed. Should this Paper not be considered timely filed, Applicants hereby requests a retroactive extension of time to file for the number of months required to maintain pendency of the Application.

Please cancel claim 7.

The Office Action sets forth a requirement to make an election of species. Applicant elects the polymer formed according to the following species:

the functional group is a carboxylic acid;

the precursor group is a carboxylic acid ester (if present);

the ethylenic unsaturated monomer is acrylic acid and

the crosslinker is the crosslinker labeled "(2)" at page 12 of the specification.

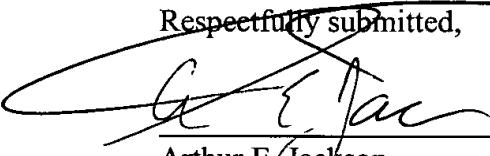
In addition, the Examiner appears to set forth a further requirement that he designated as "the non-addition polyanionic polymer the final product" in the Office Action. Applicants submit that the election of the above species of the components of the polymer sets forth a polymer species with sufficient clarity.

This election is made to facilitate an initial search, but it is anticipated that the entire scope of claim 1 can and will be searched without undue burden.

FEE DEFICIENCY

- If an extension of time is deemed required for consideration of this paper, please consider this paper to comprise a petition for such an extension of time; The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee for any such extension to Deposit Account No. 04-0480.
- and/or
- If any additional fee is required for consideration of this paper, please charge Account No. 04-0480

Respectfully submitted,



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